

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MAILED TO COUNSEL
LITIGANT

-----X
MICHEL TOLIVER, :
 :
 : Plaintiff, :
 :
 : v. :
 :
 : DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, :
 : ET AL., :
 :
 : Defendants. :
 -----X

10 Civ. 6298 (LAP) (JCF)

ORDER ADOPTING REPORT
AND RECOMMENDATION

<p>USDC SDNY DOCUMENT ELECTRONICALLY FILED DOC #: DATE FILED: <u>9/30/12</u></p>
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LORETTA A. PRESKA, Chief United States District Judge:

Michel Toliver ("Plaintiff"), proceeding pro se, brings this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against the New York City Department of Corrections ("DOC"), various DOC employees, and Prison Health Services, Inc. ("PHS")¹ (collectively, "Defendants") alleging that constitutional violations occurred from May 5, 2010, to June 1, 2010, while Plaintiff was housed as an inmate at the George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC") on Rikers Island. On June 7, 2011, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and (6), Defendants moved to dismiss the complaint primarily on the grounds that the complaint fails to state a claim against PHS and fails to allege the personal involvement of any of the individually named Defendants.

¹ PHS is "a private corporation that contracts with the City of New York to provide medical and mental-health care to the city's inmate population." White v. Rosenberg, No. 07 Civ. 1807, 2010 WL 423055, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 3, 2010).

Plaintiff, in turn, wrote the Court on June 14, 2011, seeking leave to file an amended complaint, a proposed copy of which he included with his letter. The amended complaint adds as additional Defendants the City of New York (the "City"), a PHS employee, and additional DOC employees. On August 5, 2011, Defendants filed a reply memorandum of law in which they primarily argue the amended complaint should be dismissed because it too fails to state a complaint against PHS or any of the individually named Defendants. Defendants do not oppose, however, Plaintiff's motion to amend to the extent it seeks to state a claim for damages against the City arising out of the alleged loss of Plaintiff's property upon his entry into a punitive segregated housing unit within GRVC.

In a letter to the Court dated September 28, 2011 (but stamped as received on September 16, 2011), Plaintiff offered a "supplementary amended complaint" in which he supplements his claim for lost property against the City and adds a section entitled "Explanation as to Why Each Defendant is Being Sued." Defendants responded to the supplementary amended complaint on December 2, 2011, maintaining that Plaintiff's latest attempt still fails to state a claim against PHS and many of the individually named Defendants and that certain allegations pertaining to other individually named Defendants are duplicative of claims asserted against them by Plaintiff in

other actions. Defendants also reiterated they remained unopposed to Plaintiff's adding the City as a Defendant.

On April 4, 2012, this case was reassigned to the undersigned, and the pending motions were referred to Magistrate Judge Francis. On April 10, 2012, Judge Francis issued a Report and Recommendation (the "R&R") granting in part Plaintiff's motion to amend and granting the defendants' motion to dismiss [see Dkt. No. 51]. Plaintiff timely filed objections [Dkt. No. 55], to which the defendants timely responded [Dkt. No. 59].

Instead of objecting to the conclusions in the R&R that were based on the facts as alleged in the three different complaints Plaintiff submitted in this case, Plaintiff primarily uses his objections to allege new facts. Although a district court "may . . . receive further evidence" in reviewing objections to a report and recommendation, see 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), doing so "is disfavored absent a 'most compelling reason' for the failure to present such evidence or arguments in the first instance." Black v. Herbert, No. 02 Civ. 6252, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 35047, at *7 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 23, 2009) (quoting Housing Works, Inc. v. Turner, 362 F. Supp. 2d 434, 438 (S.D.N.Y. 2005)).

Here, Plaintiff provides no reason, let alone a compelling one, as to why his newest allegations submitted in connection with his objections to the R&R should be considered.

Although pro se plaintiffs generally should be provided an opportunity to amend their complaints prior to dismissal for failure to state a claim, see Chavis v. Chappius, 618 F.3d 162, 170 (2d Cir. 2010), in this case Plaintiff has had no fewer than three bites at the apple. Not only that, but Defendants put Plaintiff on notice as to their various theories of dismissal of Plaintiff's claims, e.g., that Plaintiff fails to plead the individually named Defendants' personal involvement in the claimed constitutional violations, before the instant motions were referred to Judge Francis. And the supplementary amended complaint evidences at least this theory was not lost on Plaintiff given it contains the "Explanation as to Why Each Defendant is Being Sued" section and facts pertaining to certain individuals' participation in alleged wrongdoings. Nevertheless, Plaintiff's latest complaint still fails to allege properly the named Defendants' personal involvement in the claims at issue in this case. Accordingly, with respect to those claims the R&R recommends should be dismissed, Plaintiff will not be granted leave to amend.

Having reviewed the R&R, Plaintiff's objections, and Defendants' response and finding Judge Francis's analysis to be correct and appropriate upon de novo review, see Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b), the R&R is hereby adopted to the following extent:

(1) Defendants' motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims against DOC is GRANTED.

(2) Defendants' motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims against Commissioner Schriro and Chief Davis is GRANTED.

(3) Defendants' motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims against Warden Mulvey is GRANTED.

(4) Defendants' motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims against PHS is GRANTED.

(5) Defendants' motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims that he was denied access to a working typewriter in the law library, telephone privileges upon entering punitive segregation, and access to a chaplain is GRANTED.

(6) Plaintiff's motion to amend his complaint to add Captain Garcia, Captain Dunbar, and Assistant Deputy Warden Lobmardi is DENIED.

(7) Plaintiff's motion to amend his complaint to add Phillip Keepings is DENIED.

(8) Plaintiff's motion to amend his complaint to assert a claim for money damages against the City of New York for its alleged policy of failing to voucher inmates' property upon their entry into segregated housing is GRANTED.²

² On September 24, 2012, Defendants wrote the Court seeking leave to supplement their motion to dismiss to add failure to exhaust as an additional ground for dismissal. "Exhaustion of (cont'd on next page)

CONCLUSION

Defendants' motion to dismiss [Dkt. No. 22] is GRANTED, and Plaintiff's motion to amend is GRANTED IN PART. Plaintiff is directed to file an amended complaint with the Clerk of the Court within 45 days of the date of this order. The amended complaint must (1) comply with the substance of this order, (2) be captioned as an "Amended Complaint," and (3) bear the same docket number as this order. An Amended Civil Rights Complaint form, which Plaintiff should complete as specified above, is attached to this order. If Plaintiff fails to comply with the Court's directive and cannot show good cause to excuse such failure, the Court will dismiss the case with prejudice for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

The Court certifies, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), that any appeal from this order would not be taken

(cont'd from previous page)
administrative remedies is an affirmative defense that defendants bear the burden to raise and prove." Land v. Kaufman, No. 07 Civ. 8070, 2009 WL 1106780, at *5 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 23, 2009). Failure to exhaust may be excused when a defendant waives the defense. Ruggiero v. County of Orange, 467 F.3d 170, 175 (2d Cir. 2006). Here, given that Defendants seek to invoke the affirmative defense of failure to exhaust after an R&R was issued on Defendants' motion to dismiss, the Court finds that Defendants have waived the defense. To hold otherwise would be especially unwarranted in light of Defendants' express concession that Plaintiff should be granted leave to add a claim against the City; Defendants' request to "supplement" their motion to dismiss when Judge Francis has already recommended it be granted in its entirety suggests Defendants are having second thoughts on this issue.

in good faith, and therefore in forma pauperis status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. See Coppedge v. United States, 369 U.S. 438, 444-45 (1962).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
September 29, 2012


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

(In the space above enter the full name(s) of the plaintiff(s).)

-against-

**AMENDED
COMPLAINT**

under the Civil Rights Act,
42 U.S.C. § 1983

Jury Trial: ☐ Yes ☐ No
(check one)

___ Civ. _____ ()

(In the space above enter the full name(s) of the defendant(s). If you cannot fit the names of all of the defendants in the space provided, please write "see attached" in the space above and attach an additional sheet of paper with the full list of names. The names listed in the above caption must be identical to those contained in Part I. Addresses should not be included here.)

I. Parties in this complaint:

- A. List your name, identification number, and the name and address of your current place of confinement. Do the same for any additional plaintiffs named. Attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

Plaintiff's Name _____
ID# _____
Current Institution _____
Address _____

- B. List all defendants' names, positions, places of employment, and the address where each defendant may be served. Make sure that the defendant(s) listed below are identical to those contained in the above caption. Attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

Defendant No. 1 Name _____ Shield # _____
Where Currently Employed _____
Address _____

Defendant No. 2 Name _____ Shield # _____
 Where Currently Employed _____
 Address _____

Defendant No. 3 Name _____ Shield # _____
 Where Currently Employed _____
 Address _____

Who did
what?

Defendant No. 4 Name _____ Shield # _____
 Where Currently Employed _____
 Address _____

Defendant No. 5 Name _____ Shield # _____
 Where Currently Employed _____
 Address _____

II. Statement of Claim:

State as briefly as possible the facts of your case. Describe how each of the defendants named in the caption of this complaint is involved in this action, along with the dates and locations of all relevant events. You may wish to include further details such as the names of other persons involved in the events giving rise to your claims. Do not cite any cases or statutes. If you intend to allege a number of related claims, number and set forth each claim in a separate paragraph. Attach additional sheets of paper as necessary.

A. In what institution did the events giving rise to your claim(s) occur?

B. Where in the institution did the events giving rise to your claim(s) occur?

C. What date and approximate time did the events giving rise to your claim(s) occur?

D. Facts: _____

What
happened
to you?

Was
anyone
else
involved?

Who else
saw what
happened?

III. Injuries:

If you sustained injuries related to the events alleged above, describe them and state what medical treatment, if any, you required and received.

IV. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies:

The Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), requires that "[n]o action shall be brought with respect to prison conditions under section 1983 of this title, or any other Federal law, by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility until such administrative remedies as are available are exhausted." Administrative remedies are also known as grievance procedures.

A. Did your claim(s) arise while you were confined in a jail, prison, or other correctional facility?

Yes _____ No _____

If YES, name the jail, prison, or other correctional facility where you were confined at the time of the events giving rise to your claim(s).

B. Does the jail, prison or other correctional facility where your claim(s) arose have a grievance procedure?

Yes ____ No ____ Do Not Know ____

C. Does the grievance procedure at the jail, prison or other correctional facility where your claim(s) arose cover some or all of your claim(s)?

Yes ____ No ____ Do Not Know ____

If YES, which claim(s)?

D. Did you file a grievance in the jail, prison, or other correctional facility where your claim(s) arose?

Yes ____ No ____

If NO, did you file a grievance about the events described in this complaint at any other jail, prison, or other correctional facility?

Yes ____ No ____

E. If you did file a grievance, about the events described in this complaint, where did you file the grievance?

1. Which claim(s) in this complaint did you grieve?

2. What was the result, if any?

3. What steps, if any, did you take to appeal that decision? Describe all efforts to appeal to the highest level of the grievance process.

F. If you did not file a grievance:

1. If there are any reasons why you did not file a grievance, state them here:

2. If you did not file a grievance but informed any officials of your claim, state who you informed, when and how, and their response, if any:

- G. Please set forth any additional information that is relevant to the exhaustion of your administrative remedies.

Note: You may attach as exhibits to this complaint any documents related to the exhaustion of your administrative remedies.

V. Relief:

State what you want the Court to do for you (including the amount of monetary compensation, if any, that you are seeking and the basis for such amount). _____

On
these
claims

VI. Previous lawsuits:

A. Have you filed other lawsuits in state or federal court dealing with the same facts involved in this action?

Yes ____ No ____

B. If your answer to A is YES, describe each lawsuit by answering questions 1 through 7 below. (If there is more than one lawsuit, describe the additional lawsuits on another sheet of paper, using the same format.)

1. Parties to the previous lawsuit:

Plaintiff _____
Defendants _____

2. Court (if federal court, name the district; if state court, name the county) _____

3. Docket or Index number _____

4. Name of Judge assigned to your case _____

5. Approximate date of filing lawsuit _____

6. Is the case still pending? Yes ____ No ____
If NO, give the approximate date of disposition _____

7. What was the result of the case? (For example: Was the case dismissed? Was there judgment in your favor? Was the case appealed?) _____

On
other
claims

C. Have you filed other lawsuits in state or federal court otherwise relating to your imprisonment?

Yes ____ No ____

D. If your answer to C is YES, describe each lawsuit by answering questions 1 through 7 below. (If there is more than one lawsuit, describe the additional lawsuits on another piece of paper, using the same format.)

1. Parties to the previous lawsuit:

Plaintiff _____
Defendants _____

2. Court (if federal court, name the district; if state court, name the county) _____

3. Docket or Index number _____

4. Name of Judge assigned to your case _____

5. Approximate date of filing lawsuit _____

6. Is the case still pending? Yes ____ No ____
If NO, give the approximate date of disposition _____
7. What was the result of the case? (For example: Was the case dismissed? Was there judgment in your favor? Was the case appealed?) _____

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Signature of Plaintiff _____
Inmate Number _____
Institution Address _____

Note: All plaintiffs named in the caption of the complaint must date and sign the complaint and provide their inmate numbers and addresses.

I declare under penalty of perjury that on this ____ day of _____, 20__, I am delivering this complaint to prison authorities to be mailed to the *Pro Se* Office of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Signature of Plaintiff: _____